Paramount Animation Presents
In Association with Domain Entertainment
A Ty Ty and Jay Brown Production
"SMURFS"
Executive Producers Pete Chiappetta, Anthony Tittanegro, Andrew Lary
Produced by Jay Brown, Ty Ty Smith, Robyn Rihanna Fenty, Ryan Harris, p.g.a.
Based on the Characters and Works of Peyo
Written by Pam Brady
Directed by Chris Miller

Cast: Rihanna, James Corden, Nick Offerman, JP Karliak, Daniel Levy, Amy Sedaris, Natasha Lyonne, Sandra Oh, Jimmy Kimmel, Octavia Spencer, Nick Kroll, Hannah Waddingham, Alex Winter, Maya Erskine, Billie Lourd, Xolo Maridueña, Marshmello, with Kurt Russell and John Goodman

Synopsis: When Papa Smurf (John Goodman) is mysteriously taken by evil wizards, Razamel and Gargamel, Smurfette (Rihanna) leads the Smurfs on a mission into the real world to save him. With the help of new friends, the Smurfs must discover what defines their destiny to save the universe.

Release: July 18, 2025

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Hidden deep in a secluded Belgian forest are tiny blue creatures, three apples high, who live in mushroom houses: The Smurfs. First introduced to the world by Belgian artist and writer Peyo, the Smurfs have been turning heads and winning hearts since their first appearance in 1958, becoming a worldwide phenomenon and inspiring books, movies, toys and "The Smurfs," one of the most successful and longest-running Saturday morning television series in history. Now they will face the challenge of their lifetimes in the new movie ***Smurfs***, as they venture from the sylvan setting they dearly love to rescue their patriarch from the clutches of evil wizards.

"The Smurfs have been lying dormant for a while," says director Chris Miller. "I felt a new film was long overdue. I know Pam Brady, the writer of our script, and I know the extraordinary creative team at Paramount. I trusted them as filmmakers to deliver something that was going to be special."

Not only is Miller one of Hollywood's top animation directors and an expert animator himself, he is a lifelong fan of the Smurfs, starting with their classic 1980s animated television show. "I remember watching it every Saturday morning and finding it incredibly funny and a bit strange," he says. "It was compelling and completely different from anything else that was on TV at the time. It opened my world up to the possibilities of what animation could be like."

Miller would eventually study at CalArts, home of one of the world's most prestigious animation programs, where he learned that the Smurfs' fantastical adventures had a far longer history than he had ever dreamed. "In this film, audiences will see Smurfs in a way that no one's ever seen them before," he says. "Using the original Peyo comics as a blueprint, we've reinvigorated the franchise. We brought the world of the comic book into a computer-generated universe that is immersive and tactile."

Remaining faithful to the characters created by Peyo was always a priority. "His sense of design was iconic," says Miller. "As a kid, I found Peyo's original drawings instantly appealing. I felt like I recognized them even though I had never seen them before."

Rihanna, who voices Smurfette, also serves as a producer and musical contributor for the film. The bestselling recording artist, actress and entrepreneur tackled her multiple responsibilities with equal enthusiasm. "Working on this film in so many different roles was every bit as thrilling as it was challenging," Rihanna says. "It was invigorating and exciting for me to not only embody a character but also bring my musical life into the mix. We worked with music producers and choreographers whose work I admire. To put those two worlds together was a win-win for everyone. It pushed us all to challenge our artistry."

So what exactly makes a Smurf…Smurfy? Peyo's pint-sized creations are beloved for their humor, loyalty and kindness. They've built a utopian community in Smurf Village based on cooperation and made it undetectable by humans. Each day begins with group calisthenics and song. They have all the Smurf berries they can eat, all the water they need. Every Smurf has a role that suits them perfectly and their names reflect

the skill that makes them unique: Brainy Smurf. Hefty Smurf. Worry Smurf. They lead idyllic lives in a totally safe, completely protected world.

Or at least they did. Their ideal lives disappear when Papa Smurf (voiced by John Goodman), their patriarch and protector, is abducted by the evil wizards Gargamel and his brother Razamel. From that point on, the movie becomes an audacious rescue mission. "A group of brave Smurfs leaves the safe confines of Smurf Village and heads out into the world, across dimensions, in order to find Papa and bring him back safely," says Miller. "The Smurfs are about to learn that their place in the universe is much bigger than they ever knew. They have a higher calling they had no idea existed."

The Smurfs of Smurf Village

In all of Smurf Village, there are only two exceptions to those rules about names. The first, Smurfette, was created out of clay by the Smurfs' arch-nemesis, the wicked wizard Gargamel, and sent on a secret mission to destroy Smurf Village. "When the entire village embraced her, Gargamel's evil enchantment ended," says Miller. "She made a choice to become one of them."

When Rihanna was growing up in Barbados, there wasn't much for a kid to watch on television, but the 1980s animated series was a must-see. "So many mornings, I woke up long before I was supposed to get ready for school just to get that dose of Smurfs," she remembers. "I related so much to Smurfette and what she stood for. First of all, I have always loved makeup and hair. We all know that. And she's an esthetician. She's also a powerful leader, independent, strong, beautiful, sassy, witty and very empathetic. I was super-inspired by all of that. I think she loves music too and her favorite genres are hip-hop, reggae, Afrobeats, ballads and house. That's Smurfette. She needs options."

She added elements to Smurfette's voice from some of the many women important in her life. "I plucked little things from each of them," she explains. "They are all so different in personality, tone and attitude, but I feel like these are the women that are with me daily. Smurfette needed to come from all of us."

She slipped into the role easily, according to the filmmakers. "I don't know that there's a movie without Rihanna," says Miller. "She came in with an open heart, an open mind and more knowledge about Smurfs than anyone I will ever know. She also is an outsider who found her place, like Smurfette. She's got a great voice. She's a terrific actress. As a musician, she is singular. Everything she touches, she makes exceptional and her own."

Since making her film debut in 2006, Rihanna has made herself at home on many movie sets, appearing in major motion pictures including *Ocean's Eight, Battleship* and the animated feature *Home.* "Working with Chris Miller is a dream," she says. "He's one of the most patient men I've ever encountered. He always has his eyes on the prize and he stays patient, whatever it takes. I looked forward to his little giggle when I was saying my lines because that usually meant I was getting it right."

As a producer, she felt fortunate to have met Peyo's family during development, a highlight of the experience for her. "They're so invested," she says. "They were an important part of the entire process. We

just want to make everyone proud and introduce a new generation to Smurfs. We are super excited to take the audiences with us on a magical journey into the amazing world of *Smurfs*. This is a huge movie about the smallest heroes in the universe. It's a big-time adventure with action, music, laughter and the cutest daredevils you've ever seen."

Smurfette's best friend in Smurf Village is No Name, the only Smurf in town who has no identity, no "thing" and consequently no name. Smurfette knows what it feels like to not belong, which is the root of their friendship, according to the actress. "She keeps telling him to hang in there," she says. "She encourages him to embrace what he does have: the love of his friends and community. And she promises him that eventually he'll figure out who he is. When he does, it will be spectacular."

Voiced by actor, writer, producer, singer and television host James Corden, No Name is in many ways the heart and soul of the story. Corden brings the character vulnerability, charm and humor, according to Miller. "He gave so much depth to the character. He also brought his singing voice, which is extraordinary."

The invitation to join the cast came from an unexpected source, Corden remembers. "I got a voice note from Rihanna on my phone, which had never happened to me before or since," the actor explains. "She said, would you come and be in this Smurf movie? Would I? I was so blown away. And that is the whole story of how I came to play No Name."

A lot of people will identify with No Name's search for identity, believes Corden. "In the Smurf world, he is completely lost. For him, the film is about his quest to discover his purpose. Smurfette is his ally and confidante, the person that tells him that he is going to be okay. She gives him some tough love at points. And she's also a brilliant singer, because…it's Rihanna."

Even for the man who dreamed up Carpool Karaoke and sang along with stars like Adele, Sir Elton John, Madonna and a host of other musical superstars, singing with Rihanna was intimidating. "When I was in the studio with Rihanna and her producers, it was hard not to feel like somebody made a huge mistake."

No creature in the world is more recognizable than a Smurf, in his opinion. "I reckon wherever you are in the world, you could show a picture of a Smurf to people and more than half of them would recognize it. It's a phenomenon that has lasted an incredibly long time and retained its relevance. I'm very honored to be part of it."

Audiences can look forward to hearing an extraordinary cast, Corden says. "John Goodman, who plays Papa Smurf, is quite a hero of mine. Knowing that my voice is in a film with his voice makes me proud. Everywhere you look, there are extraordinary people: Dan Levy, Natasha Lyonne, Hannah Waddingham. All I was ever really thinking about was not to be the person that lets the entire thing down!"

Everyone in the cast brought two essential qualities to their work, says Miller. "They have an exceptional understanding of humor and heart, and utter commitment to their characters, starting with John Goodman, who is just right as Papa Smurf. He is a blessing and a half to the movie."

One of the things the Smurfs discover on their adventure is that Papa, his brother Ken (Nick Offerman) and their long lost brother Ron (Kurt Russell) were the original Smurf Guardians of Good, protecting the four magical books that maintain peace and harmony throughout the universe. Three of those books are now in the possession of the Evil Alliance of Wizards, who will do anything to get the fourth. Only Papa knows where it is. "For Papa, the work just became too dangerous," says Miller. "He hid the fourth book, retreated from that life and created Smurf Village in order to protect the Smurfs."

Goodman, Offerman and Russell bring a unique combination of gravitas and humor to a super squad of Smurfs charged with protecting the universe. Offerman lends his character a tough exterior and resilient heart, as well as his trademark offbeat humor and intelligence. "The big headline when I was offered this job was that Rihanna was making a Smurf movie," says Offerman. "For years, I have said to my agents, get me with Rihanna. I don't care what it takes. If it's playing an instrument on her album, if it's in some sort of poetry battle or working in TV and film, fine. Finally, this came up. And it's going to be full of her and her music, so I'm over the moon."

According to the actor, Ken is Papa Smurf's better-looking, more adventurous younger brother. "He is a Smurf of action, a Smurf of few words and a Smurf who sees no irony whatsoever in calling his brother Papa," says Offerman. "Ken is a mysterious, highly trained alpha protector watching out for evildoers. I was tickled pink to be asked to play the Rambo of the Smurf world."

He has nothing but praise for the actors playing his fellow protectors. "I've been a massive admirer of John Goodman for a very long time," says Offerman. "You won't find a better Papa Smurf. And Ron is somewhere between a Smurf and a demigod, if only for his hair. In my mind, when Papa Smurf, Ken and Ron were young, they were undefeated in touch football. They spent a lot of time driving around in a Trans-Am listening to Frank Zappa eight-tracks. Ron grew a mane of golden hair. When I think of golden demigod-like tresses, obviously, I think of Kurt Russell."

There was never any question in Offerman's mind about playing Ken. "You get a call to come play a new Smurf character in this legendary animated world, what can you say except yes?" he explains. "Smurfs are just cute as heck. And they have great names that tell you everything you want to know about them. The film's a delight. I think people are going to be skipping out of the theater and looking for wizards to defeat."

Allies and Enemies

When the Smurf rescue team, headed by Smurfette, No Name and Ken, is transported to the Australian Outback, they encounter a group of new additions to the Smurf world: the Snooterpoots. Interdimensional creatures that live underground, they run a gas station in the middle of the desert, the only one around for hundreds and hundreds of miles. Anyone unlucky enough to get stuck there is going to have to pay to get out.

Their matriarch Mama Poot is played by Natasha Lyonne. "Mama is a grifter at heart," says Matt Landon. "Snooterpoots have an agenda that mostly revolves around picking people's pockets. But she is also a mama and super protective of her dozens of little baby Poots. Natasha attacked both of those elements at 100 percent or possibly 1,000 percent. She's sort of amazing."

Mama Poot is familiar with the Evil Alliance of Wizards and the danger they present. She initially refuses to help under any circumstances. "She's actually very similar to Papa," according to Miller. "Her first priority is keeping her babies safe, which is why they live in the middle of nowhere. She has magic. She can access portals. She can help find Papa."

But she's staying on the outside in order to protect her family, at least at first. "I play the fierce leader of the Poots," says Lyonne. "I know, what's a Poot? Think of a mop head with adorable eyes, oodles of attitude and an unquenchable thirst for cake. She's like a furball with one tooth and an underground operation involving a speedy vehicle. The most fun thing about Mama is her eccentricity, which in this case lives within the clearly overly eccentric package that I bring to the table," she continues. "Once I saw the way she was animated, we began to feed off each other. Now she feels like an extension of me."

It turns out that Mama Poot and Ken have history. They had a romantic liaison in Paris some years earlier. And he knows what she cannot resist. "He knows that she loves chaos and loves cake, two things he can provide in spades," says Lyonne. "Well, Mama Poot and her little Poots, they deliver."

The fourth magic book, known as Jaunty, is brought to effervescent life by Amy Sedaris. As the filmmakers imagined her, Jaunty has been hidden away in the woods for more than 100 years, isolated for so long that one or two screws are coming a little bit loose. She possesses the power of speech…and speak she does. "She is very well written," says Sedaris. "She's colorful, optimistic and smart. Jaunty holds a key that the evil wizards want in order to change the universe and she doesn't want that to happen. If they get their hands on her, they will be unstoppable."

Sedaris hopes that being part of the Smurfs family will give her "street cred" with her godchildren, adding, "It's a big family movie and we can all use that. I know kids will get really excited. It's fun to be part of projects like this one. I can't wait to hear Rihanna singing something about Smurfs!"

After working with Miller on the 2001 animated feature *Puss in Boots*, she was ready to sign on to *Smurfs* immediately. "We had a blast last time," she says. "Chris is very patient and calm. He knows what he wants and he helps you get there. I love a good line reading and if I really need one, he'll give it to me. He doesn't waste time and is absolutely honest."

DJ and record producer Marshmello makes his animation debut as Turtle, a denizen of the forest surrounding Smurf Village. "First of all, Marshmello is game for anything," says Miller. "He is so joyful as Turtle, who is a beloved character in the Smurf world. The only challenge with him was how do you mic a guy with a marshmallow for a head? But we figured it out."

It has been a longtime ambition of Marshmello's to work with Rihanna. "I always thought it would be on the music side of things," he says. "I've never done anything like this before, but when they told me that my job would be to put on a funny voice, well, that's right up my alley. Turtles in popular culture are portrayed as very slow. I saw some of the lines and knew right away what this guy would sound like. My friend has a bulldog that always looks sad and I do this voice for him. When I showed everybody that voice, it turned out to be perfect."

Turtle is in the wrong place at the wrong time and gets caught up in the chaos surrounding Papa's abduction. "He is just trying to mind his own business," says Marshmello. "He is a musician who wants to play his Wurlitzer and do his own thing when he accidentally gets swept away in a magical portal and becomes part of an adventure that he never wished for."

Daniel Levy, of "Schitt's Creek" fame, is on hand to play Joel, the wizard Razamel's nakedly ambitious, ethically challenged personal assistant. "Sometimes an amazing opportunity crosses your path and you get to participate in something that your childhood self never dreamed possible," says Levy. "I had the Smurf toys. I watched the Smurf cartoons. I've loved the movies. I had the *figurines.* And I admired the fact that Smurfette always managed to maintain her hairdo with a hat on, which is hard."

He has some empathy for Joel, based on his own work history. "Joel is fresh out of school," he says. "This is his big break. His boss inspires him and confuses him. When I was younger, I was a PA on sets and I worked for some Hollywood characters. So — deep, deep Method."

His advice to anyone thinking about breaking into animation is to hope it is with Miller. "I was thrilled at the prospect of working with Chris," he says. "Then I found out about this incredible cast. The scope of the film feels so much bigger than anything I've ever seen before. It's a gorgeous world that pushes animation to its limits."

Emmy® winner Sandra Oh plays Moxie Smurf, leader of an underground cell of Smurf activists living in Paris. Oh grew up in Canada, reading the Smurf comics in the original French. "The memories go deep," she says. "In one of my first school plays, I was a Smurf and sang a little song. So I am an O.G. Smurf fan. I think there's something in their shape that is pleasing to children. Or maybe it's because they're blue."

The cast is among the most extensive and celebrated that Miller has ever worked with. "Octavia Spencer, Nick Kroll and Hannah Waddingham are the Alliance wizards," he says. "Octavia is joyful, brilliant and can deliver the funny. Nick Kroll is just a gift — hilarious, sharp and original. Hannah Waddingham is an absolutely astounding actor. She should be the biggest star in the world in my opinion."

"We also have Jimmy Kimmel as a tardigrade," he continues. "Billie Lourd, Alex Winter, Maya Erskine, Xolo Maridueña are village Smurfs and JP Karliak plays both of the feuding brother wizards Gargamel and Razamel. I am still blown away by how big and talented this cast is."

Brave New Worlds

Smurfs takes its heroes farther away from Smurf Village than they have ever been before as they travel to Paris, the Australian Outback and Munich before leading them into a variety of alternate universes. At several points, they leave this dimension for unknown worlds beyond. "It's big and ambitious in the best possible way," Miller says. "But before we left for other dimensions, we needed to figure out how to integrate these imaginary characters into *our* world. Then we could put them into a vast multiverse where the imagery is translated into a variety of styles of animation."

The film's editor and animation director Matt Landon has an uncanny ability to visualize the film in its entirety in his head, says Miller. "He sees it shot by shot, beginning to end. It's a tricky thing to do. You're in danger of becoming very granular and getting lost in the weeds. Matt can step outside and see it all. And his skill set as an editor is unmatched."

Landon, another longtime fan, was impressed by Miller's commitment to the original Peyo comics and designs. "Chris is smart and collaborative with a great story sense," he says. "He never veered off course. The script was so funny and created so many possibilities to create a version of the Smurfs that no one had ever seen before, a movie that would work for kids and adults who already love the Smurfs, as well as a wider audience. It's more exciting and theatrical than the Smurfs have ever been."

For Miller and the film's animation production designer, Max Boas, it was an opportunity to revive some of their favorite classic animation methods and add a nostalgic touch to the film. "Max brought a free-thinking and open perspective on everything," says Miller. "He has great taste and the production design is brilliant across the board. It was fun to dive in and explore."

Boas, a longtime fan of the work of Peyo, calls the offer to work on ***Smurfs*** a "pinch me moment." "Becoming a part of the Peyo legacy was such an opportunity," he says. "The source material is so rich and full of ingenious character design. The layouts are beautiful. We fell in love with the line work and tried to combine that graphic sensibility with a cinematic and volumetric world."

Boas and Miller conceived a film that would bring together animation, live action and visual effects while blurring the visual line between them. "I love the hybrid look," says Boas. "The effect is similar to collage. Our art director Margaret Wuller and I worked together from initial concepts. She excelled at defining our characters early on in ways that helped determine the look of the film."

As animation art director for ***Smurfs***, Wuller worked on elements from color design to characters to backgrounds, putting all the pieces together to make a consistent and beautiful overall look for the film. "She is always spot on," says Miller. "Her work is elegant and fun. As an art director, Margaret keeps tabs on the finer details, the color of the hair and the fine line work that we've overlaid onto the CG to evoke the traditional comic book imagery. She was a blessing for this movie."

Her role on ***Smurfs*** has been a career milestone for Wuller. "Working with Max was one of my bucket list items," she reveals. "He is a color wizard, with a great sense of how to pair things together in ways that make the final frames sing. Chris and Matt are equally awesome. Matt's so sharp on timing and

continuity, piecing everything together like a puzzle. Chris brings a wealth of understanding comedy and acting."

The original comics became her Bible for the movie. "In them, the frames are composed so a child who can't yet read is able to understand exactly what's happening. That meant simplifying some of the backgrounds and stripping away any extras to make them simple, clear and cohesive. We created realistic volumetric light to evoke the real world, but the trick was to keep the Smurfs themselves feeling exactly like they do in Smurf Village at all times."

Once the Smurfs leave Smurf Village, the magical portal that sends them across the universe becomes a thrill ride, full of nail-biting fun. "It's like a giant roller coaster," explains Boas. "The way sunlight hits it gives it an iridescent pink sheen with lots of magical effects like Peyo scribbles that indicate motion and action the same way they do in the comic books."

Working with live action was a new experience for Miller. "It's a big component in the film," he says. "I owe Peter Collister, my DP, a debt of gratitude for eternity. There were long night shoots, which was a different gear for me. He was really helpful just getting everything we needed together."

The film's hybrid style is introduced during the Smurfs' short trip to Paris as live-action plates begin mixing with animation. "The biggest challenge was making the scenes flow while integrating the Smurfs into the real world believably with all the light around them and the chaos on the street," says Miller. "That was something I hadn't ever experienced."

It was even more complicated to create what the filmmakers call the "scream buggy sequence" in the Outback, where Mama Poot produces an old, rusted-out car and takes the Smurfs on a high-octane, music-driven joy ride that feels like it could go wrong at any second. "We spent a lot of time on the jalopy, modeling it after a now defunct company called Holden," says Wuller. "The vehicle looks like it's live-action, but it's all computer animation, with realistic textures and lighting to make it feel of a piece against the action plate."

The climactic final confrontation between No Name and Razamel takes place on an open plane floating in space. "All the gags that No Name does with Razamel could be larger than life because we didn't have walls to contend with," says Wuller. "At the same time, you need a couple little pieces of set dressing here and there, so you know where you are. We put some planets in the backgrounds and kept a consistent lighting direction, to indicate where the sun is, where the planets are and avoid too much confusion."

As Boas points out, there is a lot to look at in ***Smurfs***. "We're excited for people to see it on the big screen," he says. "The art department put so much work into all the detail. I think it looks huge and wonderful."

The Music and the Magic

Music has always been an essential element in the Smurf franchise, and that tradition is alive and well in ***Smurfs***. The soundtrack album features 14 original songs that range from bold and bouncy to quiet and

intimate, performed by recording artists including DESI TRILL, featuring DJ Khaled, Cardi B, Natania and Subhi, and of course Rihanna, who wrote and recorded the song "Friend of Mine" especially for the movie.

The score by Henry Jackman is tailored to each mood and moment of the film, pulling together big action adventure, goofy humor, dark magic and interdimensional travel effortlessly. "Henry Jackman's contribution to this film was indispensable," says Miller. "He brought a vibe to the score that feels true to the Smurf legacy and remains connected to what producers Jay Brown and Ty Ty Smith and our music supervisor Karyn Rachtman have brought to the soundtrack. It is a lush, full score, very moving when it's needed and very funny where it ought to be.'

Jackman was hooked when Miller first shared his approach to the movie. "It was extremely creative," he recalls. "They played me six songs and showed me where in the action they all went. I got a really strong sense for the important set pieces and could see how surrealistic some of the sequences were going to be. Once I understood all that, the score became a counterpoint to the songs. For example, an animated movie featuring evil wizards — and we've got not one but four to work with — is the ultimate invitation to raid the classical locker for every Wagnerian and Straussian influence you can pull up.

"When we're in Smurf Village, it's a bit more pop," he continues. "You get more drums and guitars and other things that make you feel at home. Then as soon as we leave the village, things begin to get out of control, so some of the elements that make you feel safe disappear. Everything is grander and more symphonic because the Smurfs themselves are out of their comfort zone. It's a lot more adventurous."

A Long Legacy

A part of pop culture for almost 70 years, the Smurfs have captivated fans around the world with their childlike appearance, cheerful natures, zany antics and their loyalty to one another. They inspire and amuse adults and children, bringing magic with them wherever they go. ***Smurfs*** takes them to unfamiliar places for a singular adventure that the tiny homebodies face with courage and cooperation. Being a part of the experience as an actor, a producer and a musician has been wonderfully nostalgic for Rihanna.

"It reminds me so much of my childhood," she says. "And now this is going to be a part of not just my childhood, but my kids' childhoods as well. They will definitely be fans. I'm looking forward to going to the premiere with them and seeing the surprise on their faces when they hear my voice come out of Smurfette! It's really cool to see this come full circle."

Miller hopes that as audiences watch these little critters heading out into an unfamiliar and unpredictable world, they will recognize themselves. "We've all felt like we're jumping into the void where anything can happen," he says. "We all sometimes feel like we're very small in a very big world. But as the Smurfs will learn, trust and love can help you find a way through. With the support of your friends, your family and your community, you can face anything."

At the beginning and at the end of every day, Smurfette, No Name and their friends know they can depend on each other, the director continues. "They know that there's a place in the community for each of them. Finding that place becomes an obsession for one character in the story. By trusting himself and those around him, he finds that place."

That sense of community permeated the making of ***Smurfs*** for Miller. "I love the joy of collaboration," he says. "I love the joy of working with hundreds of people, creating a collective consciousness and making something that I hope will last forever. I really hope that people who come to this without ever having seen a Smurf before have a great time. It's about identity and what it means to people who are still trying to find themselves. It's about being true to yourself and not giving up. If you're lucky enough, you will find a community like the Smurfs, where you know you're accepted, whether you know who and what you are or not."

ABOUT THE CAST

RIHANNA (Smurfette, Producer) is an Academy Award® nominated- and Grammy®-winning artist, philanthropist and businesswoman who is recognized as one of the best-selling recording artists of all time. She holds the record for the most diamond-certified RIAA singles by any female artist. All of her studio albums have achieved platinum or multi-platinum status, including *Good Girl Gone Bad*, *Loud* and *Anti*, cementing her legacy as a music industry legend. Her song "Lift Me Up" for *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* received Oscar® and Golden Globe Award® nominations, among other honors.

As an actor, Rihanna's film credits include *Battleship*, *This Is the End*, *Annie*, *Home*, *Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets*, *Ocean's Eight* and *Guava Island.* Her two-episode guest appearance as Marion Crane on A&E's Emmy Award-nominated series "Bates Motel" received critical acclaim.

Beyond her other achievements, Rihanna is celebrated for her humanitarian involvement, entrepreneurship and influence on the fashion industry. She established the Clara Lionel Foundation in honor of her grandparents, focusing on investing in community-led solutions across the Caribbean, East Africa and the U.S. South. She is also one of the most influential moguls in beauty, cosmetics and fashion, with her trailblazing and culture-shifting companies Fenty Beauty, Fenty Hair, Fenty Skin and Savage X Fenty.

JAMES CORDEN (No Name) is a host, writer, producer and actor who has won Emmy, Tony®, Golden Globe and BAFTA awards. Corden's latest credits include Peacock's animated series "Curious George" and Jez Butterworth's critically acclaimed Amazon Prime series "Mammals," which he also executive produced.

Corden recently moved back home to London, where he made his return to the stage in Joe Penhall's "The Constituent" at the Old Vic and received rave reviews. This fall he will star on Broadway in Scott Ellis' revival of "Art" alongside Neil Patrick Harris and Bobby Cannavale. Additionally, Corden will star in Steven Soderbergh's feature *The Christophers*, opposite Ian McKellen and Michaela Coel.

Corden is well known in the U.K. for co-creating and starring in the TV series "Gavin & Stacey." The 2025 finale broke records in the U.K. with 23.6 million viewers and received a BAFTA nomination. Over the show's long run Corden won the BAFTA Television Award for Best Male Comedy Performance and the British Comedy Award for Best Male Comedy Performer, while the series won the BAFTA for Must See Moment, the British Comedy Award for Best TV Comedy and the National Television Award for Most Popular Comedy Programme.

On the feature side, Corden starred opposite Meryl Streep and Nicole Kidman in Ryan Murphy's *The Prom* (2020). The film was Golden Globe nominated for Best Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy and Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy (Corden). He was also seen in Rob Marshall's *Into the Woods*, with Streep and Emily Blunt; Gary Ross' *Oceans 8*, with Cate Blanchett, Sandra

Bullock, Anne Hathaway, Rihanna and Awkwafina; John Carney's *Begin Again*, with Keira Knightley and Mark Ruffalo; and Nicholas Hytner's *The History Boys*, with the late Richard Griffiths.

Corden's other film credits include Kay Cannon's *Cinderella*, Robert B. Weide's *How to Lose Friends & Alienate People*, Mike Leigh's *All or Nothing*, Shane Meadows' *TwentyFourSeven* and Danny Boyle's *Yesterday*.

In 2023 Corden wrapped his eight-year run as host of CBS' "The Late Late Show," which garnered Corden six Emmy wins and an additional 23 nominations. In 2019 Corden was the most Emmy-nominated performer/producer/writer, totaling seven nominations that year. "The Late Late Show" won two Critics' Choice Awards and was nominated for Writers Guild and Directors Guild awards. In the digital space, the show boasts five of the 10 most-watched late-night clips including "Carpool Karaoke" with Adele, One Direction, Justin Bieber, Bruno Mars and Sia.

Corden is the co-creator and executive producer of "Carpool Karaoke: The Series" for Apple TV+. The show won five consecutive Emmys, three Producers Guild Awards and a Critics' Choice Real TV Award, in addition to a WGA Award nomination.

In 2016 Corden hosted the 70th Annual Tony Awards, which drew the highest viewership in 15 years (8.7 million viewers). Additionally, he won the Emmy for Outstanding Special Class Program and was nominated for Outstanding Writing for a Variety Special. Corden returned to host the 73rd edition and was Emmy nominated for Outstanding Variety Special (Live). He also hosted the 59th and 60th Annual Grammy Awards, receiving an Emmy nomination in 2018. He won two Emmys for the series "James Corden's Next James Corden" and received an additional nomination for hosting "The World's Best."

On stage, Corden starred in the acclaimed play "One Man, Two Guvnors," for which he won the 2012 Tony for Best Leading Actor in a Play. He first performed the play at The National Theatre in London, where he received an Olivier nomination for Best Actor. Previously, Corden starred as Timms in "The History Boy" on Broadway and the National Theatre, directed by Nicholas Hytner.

Corden starred in, produced and wrote the BAFTA-nominated comedic thriller "The Wrong Mans" for the BBC, winning the Royal Television Society (RTS) Award for Comedy Writer of the Year. His other notable acting credits in the U.K. include "Fat Friends" (RTS Award nomination) and a recurring role on the BBC's beloved sci-fi series "Doctor Who" as Craig Owens, the Doctor's roommate. Additionally, Corden served as host for the Brit Awards, the biggest event in the British music industry, from 2010 to 2014.

Over the course of his career, Corden has been honored with the Writers' Guild of Great Britain Award for Comedy Writer of the Year, the National Television Award for Best Comedy, the BAFTA Britannia Award for British Artist of the Year and many other honors in the U.K. In 2015 Corden received an OBE (Order of the British Empire) at Buckingham Palace for his services to drama.

NICK OFFERMAN (Ken) is an actor, author, humorist and woodworker whose onscreen credits include the Emmy Award®-winning role of Bill in "The Last of Us" (HBO Max), Ron Swanson on NBC's

"Parks and Recreation," Forest in "Devs," and Karl Weathers in the FX series "Fargo." He has written five *New York Times* bestselling books, including his latest, Where the Deer and the Antelope Play (Penguin Random House), Paddle Your Own Canoe, Gumption, Good Clean Fun and The Greatest Love Story Ever Told (the latter written with his wife, Megan Mullally). Offerman's next book, Little Woodchucks: Offerman Woodshop's Guide to Tools and Tomfoolery, will be released October 2025.

Offerman can now be seen in *Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning*. His prior film credits include Alex Garland's *Civil War*, Ava DuVernay's *Origin* (written and directed by DuVernay) and Craig Gillespie's *Dumb Money*. His upcoming projects include Christian Swegal's feature *Sovereign* and the forthcoming Netflix miniseries "Death by Lightning."

Offerman's other small-screen credits include the Peacock series "The Resort," the Hulu miniseries "Pam & Tommy," Amazon Prime's "A League of Their Own," and NBC's "Making It" (co-host and executive producer). He is also the voice of Beef Tobin in the Fox animated series "The Great North" and audiobook narrator for Wendell Berry's latest, The Need to Be Whole.

In his spare time, Offerman can be found at his woodshop in Los Angeles building hand-crafted items ranging from spoons and canoes to ukuleles.

JP KARLIAK (Razamel/Gargamel) is a voiceover actor, activist and snappy dresser as well as the founder and president of Queer Vox, a nonprofit training academy and community for LGBTQIA+ voice talent that advocates for authentic and equitable casting opportunities. Also a political junkie, Karliak and voiceover pal Courtenay Taylor are co-founders of the nonpartisan organization NerdsVote, linking gamers, cosplayers, con-goers and pop culture fans of all kinds to voter registration opportunities.

Karliak's previous voiceover roles include the first nonbinary lead mutant, Morph, in Disney + series "X-Men '97," an Emmy nominee and Critics Choice Award-winner (Best Animated Series). He also played the Joker in the "Suicide Squad: Kill the Justice League" and is known for his work in major series including "The Boss Baby: Back in Business," "Batman: The Killing Joke," "The Marvel Experience" and "New Looney Tunes," to name a few.

Karliak hails from Dunmore, Pennsylvania, and is an alum of the USC School of Dramatic Arts.

DANIEL LEVY (Joel) is a multi-hyphenate Emmy-winning creator who has built his career telling vibrant and comedic stories, establishing himself as a Hollywood mainstay. Levy recently made his directorial debut with the feature *Good Grief,* which he wrote, produced and starred in alongside Ruth Negga and Himesh Patel. However, Levy is best known for his work on one of the most beloved shows on television, "Schitt's Creek," which he co-created with his father, Eugene Levy. The series garnered countless awards over the years and an impressive total of 165 nominations throughout its history, including nine Emmy wins for its sixth and final season, breaking major records and becoming the most-awarded comedy series ever in a single

year, the first series (comedy or drama) to sweep all four acting categories, and receiving the most wins for a comedy series in its final season.

Levy recently made history by co-hosting the 76th Emmy Awards with Eugene Levy, both as the first father-son hosts but also in helping the telecast ratings jump by more than 50% from the previous year. Levy not only created "The Big Brunch" but also hosted and served as a judge alongside chef Sohla El-Waylly and restaurateur Will Guidara. Other recent credits include the feature *Unfrosted*, a guest role on the final season of HBO's "Curb Your Enthusiasm," Season 4 of Netflix's acclaimed dramedy "Sex Education," Disney's *Haunted Mansion* remake, the holiday rom-com *Happiest Season* and HBO Max's "Coastal Elites."

Levy's upcoming acting credits include starring alongside Ryan Reynolds, Jason Momoa, Aubrey Plaza and Addison Rae in *Animal Friends*, a feature combining live-action and animated characters that is slated for an October release. He also appears in Kornél Mundruczó's drama *At the Sea*, alongside Amy Adams, Murray Bartlett, Brett Goldstein, Jenny Slate and Rainn Wilson.

AMY SEDARIS (Jaunty) is a comedian, actress and bestselling author. She was the creator, writer and star of the Emmy-nominated show "At Home With Amy Sedaris." Earlier in her career Sedaris was the co-creator, with Stephen Colbert and Paul Dinello, of the hit cult comedy series "Strangers With Candy." Most recently she worked on the series "Frasier" for Paramount+ and "Doctor Odyssey" on Hulu.

Sedaris appeared on Amy Schumer's Hulu series "Life & Beth" and was seen in the lauded features *Theater Camp*, directed by Molly Gordon and Nick Lieberman, and *Somebody I Used To Know*, directed by Dave Franco. Additionally, she recurred in the hit "The Mandalorian" and appeared in series such as "Girls5eva," "Harley Quinn," "Divorce" and "Big City Greens."

Sedaris has written several stage plays. She is the author of two *New York Times* bestselling books, I Like You: Hospitality Under the Influence and Simple Times: Crafts for Poor People.

NATASHA LYONNE (Mama Poot) is a five-time Emmy nominee and two-time Golden Globe® nominee. Alongside Amy Poehler, Lyonne co-created (and played the lead role in) the quantum entanglement comedy "Russian Doll," which won three Emmys. She also wrote, produced and directed the series, which cemented her interests in science and futurism, leading to conversations with Ted Chiang at Seattle Arts & Lectures and with Kara Swisher and Cindy Holland at Recode's Code Conference.

In addition to Lyonne returning for new seasons of Peacock's "Poker Face" and Amazon Prime's "The Second Best Hospital in the Galaxy," 2025 marks the release of features *The Fantastic Four: First Steps*, *The Bad Guys 2* and Taika Waititi's *Klara and the Sun*, a Kazuo Ishiguro adaptation starring Jenna Ortega. She will make her feature directorial debut on the open-world augmented-reality video-game adventure *Uncanny Valley,* based on a script she wrote with "OA" creator Brit Marling and virtual reality pioneer Jaron Lanier. Marling and Lyonne will co-produce and co-star. The film is set in a parallel present where a teenage girl gets

lost between waves of data. Her estranged mother, a video game coder played by Lyonne, must reenter the world she created to find her daughter.

Lyonne founded the award-winning production company Animal Pictures. Under this banner she has produced "Poker Face," *His Three Daughters*, "Russian Doll," "Loot" and "The Second Best Hospital in the Galaxy" as well as multiple comedy specials for Netflix (which she also directed).

A staunch advocate for artists' rights, Lyonne has been outspoken and influential in facing the coming tech wave head-on. In partnership with Academy Award®-nominated filmmaker Bryn Mooser, Lyonne co-founded the film studio Asteria. Together, they aligned with the engineers at Moonvalley to help create Marey, a generative video model trained from scratch entirely on fully licensed data.

SANDRA OH (Moxie Smurf) starred in and executive produced four seasons of BBC America's "Killing Eve," winning a number of best actress awards including a Golden Globe, SAG Award and Critics Choice Award, along with four Emmy nominations. Oh received another Emmy bid for hosting "Saturday Night Live," in the category of Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series. On the feature side, she starred in the enormously successful, Oscar-winning dramedy *Sideways*, for which she shared in a SAG Award for Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture.

Oh is currently starring in the independent film *Can I Get a Witness*, on which she also served as an executive producer. She recently starred in the comedic telefilm "Quiz Lady," opposite Awkwafina, winning her first Emmy as producer, and "The Sympathizer," an HBO Max limited-series adaptation of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. This fall Oh will be seen in the feature *Good Fortune*, alongside Seth Rogen, Aziz Ansari and Keanu Reeves.

Oh's previous feature film credits include *Under the Tuscan Sun*, *Dancing at the Blue Iguana*, *Catfight*, *Umma*, *Defendor*, *Blindness*, *The Night Listener*, *For Your Consideration*, *Rick*, *Three Needles*, *Long Life, Happiness & Prosperity*, *Guinevere*, *Sorry, Haters*, *Ramona and Beezus*, *Bean*, *The Red Violin*, *Waking the Dead*, *The Princess Diaries*, *Pay or Play* and *The Same Storm*. Her voiceover work includes the animated films *Turning Red*, *Over the Moon*, *Raya and the Last Dragon*, *Window Horses* and *The Tiger's Apprentice*.

On the television side, Oh starred in and served as executive producer of the Netflix comedy series "The Chair," which received SAG and Critics Choice Award nominations. Previously, Oh starred as Dr. Cristina Yang on 10 seasons of the hit ABC series "Grey's Anatomy," winning a Golden Globe Award and a SAG Award and receiving five Emmy nominations. She also starred on seven seasons of the HBO comedy "Arli$$," appeared in the British production of "Thorne: Scaredy Cat," and was seen on HBO's "Six Feet Under" and Showtime's "Further Tales of the City."

Oh was born and raised in Ottawa, Canada. She started ballet lessons at the age of 4 and appeared in her first play, "The Canada Goose," at 10. She started working professionally at age 16 in television, theater and commercials. After three years at the prestigious National Theatre School of Canada, Oh beat out more

than 1,000 other hopefuls and landed the coveted title role in the CBC telefilm "The Diary of Evelyn Lau," based on the true story of a tortured poet who ran away from home and ended up a drug addict and prostitute on the streets of Vancouver. Her performance brought her a Gemini (Canada's Emmy) nomination for Best Actress and the 1994 Cannes FIPA d'Or for Best Actress. Oh won Genie Awards (Canada's Oscar) for her leading roles in Canadian feature *Double Happiness*, a bittersweet coming-of-age story, and *Last Night*, about the end of the world.

Never straying far from her theater roots, Oh starred last year in the Off Broadway production of "The Welkin" at New York's Atlantic Theatre and will star this summer alongside Peter Dinklage, Lupita Nyong'o and Jesse Tyler Ferguson in the Shakespeare in the Park presentation of "Twelfth Night" at New York's Delacorte Theater.

Previously, Oh starred in "Death and the Maiden" at the Victory Gardens Theater in Chicago and completed a sold-out run of "Satellites" at New York's Public Theater. She appeared in the world premiere of Jessica Hagedorn's "Dogeaters" at the La Jolla Playhouse, Diana Son's "Stop Kiss" at Joseph Papp's Public Theater (Theatre World Award) and Hansol Jung's "Wild Goose Dreams," also at the Public. Additionally, Oh performed "The Vagina Monologues" in New York.

JIMMY KIMMEL (Tardigrade) serves as host and executive producer of the Emmy-winning late-night show "Jimmy Kimmel Live!," for ABC. With over 22 years on the air, the show produces many extremely popular comedy bits and features a diverse lineup of guests including actors, musicians, athletes, comedians, authors, politicians and newsmakers. Kimmel has voiced characters in animated projects such as *PAW Patrol: The Movie*, *The Boss Baby* and *The Boss Baby: Family Business.*

Along with his company Kimmelot, Kimmel has executive produced many shows and documentaries including "Generation Gap," "The Prank Panel," "Crank Yankers," "Mark Rober's Revengineers," "Once Upon a Time in Queens," "High Hopes" and "Jimmy Kimmel Live!"

Kimmel was also the host and executive producer of ABC's "Live in Front of a Studio Audience" specials with the late Norman Lear. The show, which won multiple Emmys, revolved around star-studded reenactments of the iconic sitcoms "All in the Family," "The Jeffersons," "Good Times," "The Facts of Life" and "Diff'rent Strokes." Kimmel is also host and executive producer of ABC's long-running "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire."

In 2024 Kimmel hosted the Oscars for a fourth time. Additionally, he hosted the American Music Awards five times, co-hosted the ESPY Awards with LeBron James in 2007, hosted the 2012 White House Correspondents' Association Dinner with President Obama, and hosted the Emmy Awards three times.

In 2019 Kimmel wrote and illustrated a children's book titled The Serious Goose. Published by Random House Children's Books, The Serious Goose spent several weeks atop the *New York Times* bestseller

list and all of the author's profits were donated to Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) and children's hospitals across the United States. Kimmel is an honorary ambassador for CHLA.

After 12 years in local morning radio with stops in Las Vegas, Phoenix, Seattle, Tampa, Palm Springs, Tucson and Los Angeles, Kimmel got his start in television as co-host of "Win Ben Stein's Money" on Comedy Central, for which he won an Emmy for Best Game Show Host in 1999. He then co-created, co-hosted and executive produced 100 episodes of "The Man Show" for Comedy Central, served as an on-air prognosticator for Fox NFL Sunday for four seasons and co-created and executive produced "The Andy Milonakis Show" for MTV.

Kimmel lives in Los Angeles with his wife Molly McNearney and their children, Oprah and Steadman.

OCTAVIA SPENCER (Asmodius) is an Academy Award-winning actress who has become one of Hollywood's most lauded talents, with a resume as extensive as it is versatile. Her performance as Minny in *The Help* earned Spencer the Oscar, BAFTA, Golden Globe, SAG Award and Critics Choice Award, among numerous other accolades. Spencer received Oscar, SAG, Golden Globe and NAACP Image Award nominations for *Hidden Figures*, which told the true story of African-American women who provided NASA with critical information needed to launch the program's early missions. Additionally, Spencer served as an executive producer on the critically acclaimed drama *Green Book*, which won the 2019 Oscar for Best Picture and the Golden Globe for Best Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy.

Spencer's upcoming projects include Amazon Prime's action-adventure series "Ride or Die," in which she stars alongside Hannah Waddingham and Bill Nighy. She also serves as an executive producer on the series, which follows two best friends, one of whom is secretly leading a double life as a well-trained assassin.

In 2024 Spencer guest-starred in the seventh season of CBS' "Young Sheldon" and in 2023 she received an NAACP Image Award nomination for her starring role in the third and final season of the acclaimed Apple TV+ thriller "Truth Be Told." Spencer played a fearless true crime podcast host determined to uncover the truth at any cost and also served as executive producer.

Over the last few years Spencer has played memorable roles in such features as *Spirited*, with Ryan Reynolds and Will Ferrell; *Encounter*, with Riz Ahmed; *Thunder Force*, with Melissa McCarthy; *The Witches*, with Anne Hathaway; *Ma*, in a rare villainous role; *The Shape of Water*, for which she earned Golden Globe, BAFTA and Oscar nominations; *Instant Family*, with Mark Wahlberg and Rose Byrne; *A Kid Like Jake*, with Claire Danes, Jim Parsons and Priyanka Chopra Jonas; and *Small Town Crime*, with John Hawkes and Anthony Anderson.

Spencer's additional film credits include *Onward*, *The Voyage of Doctor Dolittle*, *Luce* (Independent Spirit Award nomination), *The Shack*, the *Divergent* series franchise, *Zootopia* (Oscar winner for Best Animated Film),

The Free World, *Fathers and Daughters*, *The Great Gilly Hopkins*, *Bad Santa* and *Bad Santa 2*, *Black or White*, *On Up*, *Snowpiercer*, *Fruitvale Station* (Best Supporting Actress, National Board of Review), *Paradise*, *Smashed*, *Call Me Crazy: A Five Film*, *Blues for Willadean*, *Fly Paper*, *Peep World*, *Dinner for Schmucks*, *Small Town Saturday Night*, *Herpes Boy*, *Halloween II*, *The Soloist*, *Drag Me to Hell*, *Seven Pounds*, *Pretty Ugly People*, *Coach Carter*, *Charm School*, *Win a Date With Tod Hamilton*, *Spider-Man*, *Big Momma's House*, *Being John Malkovich*, *Never Been Kissed* and *A Time to Kill*. In 2009 Spencer directed and produced a short film entitled *The Captain*, which was a finalist for the coveted Poetry Foundation Prize at the Chicago International Children's Film Festival.

In 2020 Spencer executive produced and played the title role in "Self Made: Inspired by the Life of Madam C.J. Walker," a miniseries for Netflix about the entrepreneur and social activist. Her performance was honored with an Emmy nomination (Outstanding Lead Actress in a Limited Series or Movie) as well as an NAACP Image Award nomination.

Spencer's additional television credits include "Mom," "30 Rock," "Halfway Home," "Ugly Betty," "The Big Bang Theory," "ER," "CSI," "CSI: NY," "Raising the Bar," "Medium" and "NYPD Blue."

In 2019 Spencer launched her production company, Orit Entertainment, which she runs with partner and producer Brian Clisham and head of production and development Stephanie Kluft. The company recently signed a first-look deal with Skydance Television, with "Ride or Die" being the first project under the new partnership.

Produced projects under the Orit Entertainment banner include the scripted series "Truth Be Told" and "Self Made: Inspired by the Life of Madam C.J. Walker" as well as the docuseries "Lost Women of Highway 20" and "Feds," as part of their partnership with ID and October Films. Narrated by Spencer, "Lost Women of Highway 20" is a three-episode docuseries examining a stretch of Oregon's U.S. Highway 20 where many women and girls went missing and/or were attacked between the 1970s and 1990. "Feds" is a six-part series that for the first time takes viewers deep inside America's most elite crime-fighting agency and features exclusive access to active-duty FBI agents in the special forces division. Both series have been picked up for a second season.

Among her many other professional achievements, Spencer has co-authored an interactive mystery series for children called Randi Rhodes, Ninja Detective. The first title in the series, Randi Rhodes, Ninja Detective: The Case of the Time-Capsule Bandit was published by Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing in 2013 and the second book, Randi Rhodes, Ninja Detective: The Sweetest Heist in History followed the next year.

Spencer is a native of Montgomery, Alabama, and holds a B.S. in Liberal Arts from Auburn University. She currently resides in Los Angeles.

NICK KROLL (Chernobog) has established himself as one of today's most sought-after creators, writers, producers and actors in both film and television. Kroll co-created, wrote, produced and performed

over 75 voices on the Emmy-winning Netflix animated series "Big Mouth," which is based on his childhood. The eighth and final season aired in May, making it Netflix's longest-running adult animated series. "Big Mouth" garnered numerous accolades including 2021, 2020 and 2019 Emmy Award nominations for Outstanding Animated Program, 2021 and 2020 Critics Choice Award nominations for Best Animated Series, a 2021 Annie Award for Best Writing – TV / Media, a 2019 Annie Award for Best General Audience Animated Television/Broadcast Production, a 2022 NAACP Image Award Nomination for Outstanding Animated Series and a 2019 Critics Choice Award for Best Animated Series.

Kroll was recently seen in Jake Kasdan's holiday blockbuster *Red One*, opposite Dwayne Johnson and Chris Evans, and the horror comedy *I Don't Understand You*, opposite Andrew Rannells. He also appeared in Hulu's comedy series "History of the World Part II," a follow-up to Mel Brooks' 1981 film, and served as a writer and executive producer. Brooks personally approached Kroll to be a part of the project, which netted him a WGA Award nomination.

In 2020 Kroll announced the launch of his production company, Good At Business. Under this banner he is developing an adaptation of Calvin Kasulke's Several People Are Typing as a TV series. Several People Are Typing is the first novel narrated entirely through Slack chats. Kasulke's darkly funny debut upends our assumptions about the COVID-era workplace, the virtual office. Also under the Good At Business banner, Kroll has an FX series launching called "Adults," which he will executive produce and direct. "Adults" is a 20-something ensemble comedy created by Ben Kronengold and Rebecca Shaw that follows a group of codependent housemates who are trying to be good people despite being neither "good" nor "people" yet.

Kroll recently wrapped his run on Broadway in "All-In: A Comedy About Love" at the Hudson Theatre. The show, written by Simon Rich and directed by Alex Timbers, featured humorous stories about dating, heartbreak, marriage and more. Kroll also completed his "Middle-Aged Boy" tour, which had sold-out shows in the U.S., U.K. and Australia. In 2021 Kroll sold out Carnegie Hall during the New York Comedy Festival and shot a standup special for Netflix, "Little Big Boy," which is now streaming.

Kroll and the "Big Mouth" team also created the spinoff "Human Resources" for Netflix, which ran for two seasons. Speaking of spinoffs, Kroll and "Big Mouth" co-star John Mulaney released the podcast "Oh, Hello: The P'dcast" in the wake of their critically acclaimed Broadway show "Oh, Hello on Broadway," which ran for 138 performances and received rave reviews. The first episode of the podcast was released on April 3, 2020, and all proceeds were donated to various charitable organizations supporting COVID-19 relief, including United Way.

Kroll appeared in the features *Don't Worry Darling*, with Florence Pugh, Harry Styles and Chris Pine, and *Olympic Dreams*, with real-life Olympian Alexi Pappas. He has voiced characters in animated films such as *The Addams Family* and its sequel as well as *Sing, Sing 2* and *Secret Life of Pets.* Kroll's other film credits include Jeff Nichols' *Loving*, Chris Weitz's *Operation Finale*, Zoe Lister-Jones and Daryl Wein's *How It Ends*, Charles

Stone III's *Uncle Drew*, Ross Katz's *Adult Beginners* (also producer), Sophie Goodhart's *My Blind Brother*, Terrence Malick's *Knight of Cups*, Seth Rogen's *Sausage Party*, John Hamburg's *I Love You, Man*, Shawn Levy's *Date Night*, Nicholas Stoller's *Get Him to the Greek* and Jay Roach's *Dinner for Schmucks*.

Kroll was the creative executive producer on his sketch show "Kroll Show," which ran for three seasons on Comedy Central. He also co-starred as Ruxin in the hit FX show "The League" for a total of seven seasons. Additionally, Kroll guest starred as Simon the Devious on FX's vampire comedy "What We Do in the Shadows" several times during its successful run. He also appeared in Apple TV+'s "Dickinson," alongside Hailee Steinfeld; HBO Max's "Our Flag Means Death," alongside Taika Waititi; and Apple TV+'s "Roar," alongside Issa Rae.

HANNAH WADDINGHAM (Jezebeth) is an Emmy winner and BAFTA-nominated television, film and theater actress as well as a singer. Waddingham is often recognized for her role as Rebecca Welton in the award-winning Apple TV+ series "Ted Lasso," which aired its third season in 2023. For this role she has garnered Emmy, Critics Choice, Hollywood Critics Association and SAG awards, as well as two individual Golden Globe and SAG nominations. Before "Ted Lasso" she was probably best known as Septa Unella, also known as the Shame Nun, in HBO's groundbreaking series "Game of Thrones."

Currently, Waddingham can be seen starring in *Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning*, opposite Tom Cruise. She also voices the Grand Councilwoman in Disney's new live-action *Lilo & Stitch*. Next, Waddingham stars in drama *The Woman in Cabin 10*, alongside Keira Knightley and Guy Pearce. She is currently in production on the Amazon Prime miniseries "Ride or Die," in which she stars alongside Octavia Spencer (also executive producer).

In 2024 Waddingham was seen in actioner *The Fall Guy*, alongside Ryan Gosling and Emily Blunt, and voiced a character in *The Garfield Movie*, alongside Chris Pratt and Samuel L. Jackson. She is one of the stars of Dan Harmon's Fox animated series "Krapopolis," for which she received a 2024 Emmy nomination.

Previously, Waddingham appeared in PBS Masterpiece and ITV's "Tom Jones," winning an Astra TV Award for Best Supporting Actress, and was seen in the Netflix series "Sex Education" and E4/Syfy series "Krypton." She also appeared in "12 Monkeys" for Syfy, starred alongside Eric Idle in the BBC2/PBS series "The Entire Universe" and had a seven-episode arc on ITV's "Benidorm."

On the film side, Waddingham appeared in *The Hustle* and *Hocus Pocus 2* (as the long-awaited Mother Witch). She also voiced a character in the animated Christmas film *Tiddler*.

Waddingham premiered "Hannah Waddingham: Home for Christmas" on Apple TV+ to rave reviews and a BAFTA nomination. Recorded live at the London Coliseum, this one-hour special features Waddingham ringing in the season with musical performances of beloved Christmas classics.

Waddingham made her worldwide hosting debut in 2023 at the Olivier Awards, followed swiftly by the BBC Eurovision Song Contest, for which she received her second BAFTA TV nomination and won the

2024 Royal Television Society award for Best Entertainment Performance. She also hosted the 2024 Olivier Awards.

Before her extensive film and television work, Waddingham was best known for her contribution to West End and Broadway musical theater over the last 25 years, with Olivier nominations for her roles in "Kiss Me Kate" (as Kate/Lilli Vanessi), at the Old Vic; "A Little Night Music" (as Desiree Armfeldt) at Menier Chocolate Factory; and "Monty Python's Spamalot" (as the Lady of the Lake) at Palace Theatre.

Waddingham also won a WhatsOnStage Award (Best Supporting Actress in a Musical) for playing the Wicked Witch of the West in Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Wizard of Oz," at London Palladium, and received a Critics' Circle Award nomination for playing Christine Warner in "The Beautiful Game," at Cambridge Theatre. Her other stage work includes playing the Witch in "Into the Woods" (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre), Madame Pinglet in "A Little Hotel on the Side" (Theatre Royal Bath), Fay Hubbard in "A Chorus of Disapproval" (Theatr Clwyd), Satan in "Tonight's the Night" and Rizzo in "Grease" (both at Victoria Palace Theatre) and Suzanne Valadon in "Lautrec" (Shaftesbury Theatre).

Waddingham currently resides in London.

ALEX WINTER (Hefty Smurf) recently co-starred in the gonzo horror-comedy *Destroy All Neighbors*, which premiered on Shudder and hit theaters in January 2024. Winter also directed and acted in the dramedy *Adulthood*, starring Josh Gad and Kaya Scodelario, which is due for release later this year. Up next is *Absolute Dominion*, from acclaimed director Lexi Alexander. In the fall Winter will return to Broadway, co-starring with Keanu Reeves in a production of "Waiting for Godot" directed by Jamie Lloyd.

Winter began his career as a child actor, co-starring in the Broadway productions of "The King and I" with Yul Brynner, "Peter Pan" with Sandy Duncan, and the American premiere of Simon Gray's "Close of Play" at the Manhattan Theatre Club. After attending NYU film school, Winter went on to have starring roles in several feature films including the huge hit *Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure* and its sequel *Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey*. He also appeared in Joel Schumacher's cult favorite *The Lost Boys*, Ivan Passer's *Haunted Summer* and Percy Adlon's *Rosalie Goes Shopping*.

After that Winter starred in, co-directed and co-wrote the hit MTV comedy series "The Idiot Box." On the feature side he co-starred in his co-directing debut with *Freaked*, which made *Entertainment Weekly*'s list of the "10 Greatest Comedies of the 1990s." Next came Winter's first solo-directed feature, *Fever*, which screened in the Directors' Fortnight at Cannes.

Winter is the founder of Trouper Productions, which services his narrative and documentary work. This includes award winner *The Panama Papers*, executive produced by Laura Poitras, about the largest global corruption scandal in history and the journalists who secretly worked at considerable risk to break the story. Other notable credits include *Trust Machine: The Story of Blockchain*, about the phenomenon of Bitcoin and Blockchain, and *Deep Web*, which examines the online black-market Silk Road and the trial of its creator, Ross

Ulbricht. The latter film premiered on the MGM Network, earning a Cinema Eye nomination among several other award wins. *Downloaded*, about Napster and the digital revolution, premiered at SXSW before garnering worldwide critical acclaim as a VH1 Rock Doc.

In 2020 Winter co-starred in the highly anticipated third installment in the *Bill & Ted* franchise, *Bill & Ted Face the Music*, which opened as the No. 1 movie in the U.S. and internationally. That same year Winter released two new documentary feature films: *Showbiz Kids*, which premiered on HBO to widespread critical acclaim and garnered Jeff Tweedy a Critics Choice Award nomination for Best Score; and *Zappa*, the first all-access documentary on the life and times of Frank Zappa. The latter film was nominated for a Critics Choice Award for Best Music Documentary.

In 2022 Winter produced documentary *The YouTube Effect*, in partnership with Gale Anne Hurd and Glen Zipper. The film premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival before a sold-out theatrical run in 2023.

MAYA ERSKINE (Vanity Smurf) is an Emmy- and Golden Globe-nominated actress who is the co-creator and star of the Emmy-nominated Hulu series "PEN15," which earned multiple awards and nominations. Erskine was recently seen opposite Donald Glover in Amazon's critically acclaimed TV series "Mr. & Mrs. Smith" and voices the lead in Netflix's animated series "Blue Eye Samurai," which is returning for its second season in 2026.

On the feature side, Erskine stars in the newly released feature *Sacramento*, alongside Michael Cera, Kristen Stewart and Michael Angarano. She is currently developing and set to star alongside Nicole Kidman in HBO's limited-series adaptation of the book The Perfect Nanny.

BILLIE LOURD (Worry Smurf) has completed work in film and television that showcases a depth of talent well beyond her years. She most recently starred in Gia Coppola's *The Last Showgirl*, alongside Pamela Anderson, Kiernan Shipka, Dave Bautista and Jamie Lee Curtis. She also appeared in the transatlantic comedy *And Mrs*, with Colin Hanks and Aisling Bea, and also starred in the rom-com *Ticket to Paradise*, with George Clooney, Julia Roberts, Kaitlyn Dever and Lucas Bravo.

On television, Lourd recently guest starred on Hulu's "Mid-Century Modern," starring Matt Bomer, Nathan Lane and Nathan Lee Graham. She also starred in the 11th season of Ryan Murphy's critically acclaimed anthology series "American Horror Story," this one dubbed "NYC," and appeared in the spinoff "American Horror Stories." Lourd has appeared in 49 episodes of Murphy's franchise including the seasons "Double Feature," "1984," "Apocalypse" and "Cult."

Lourd's upcoming projects include Alex Winter's *Adulthood*, alongside Josh Gad, Kaya Scodelario and Anthony Carrigan, and *Love Language*, alongside Chloë Grace Moretz, Anthony Ramos and Lukas Gage. She is currently in production on the comedy *That Friend*, co-starring Harvey Guillén and Josh Brener.

Lourd also starred as Chanel #3 in two seasons of Ryan Murphy's Fox series "Scream Queens." The comedy-horror series, which centers around a string of murders at a sorority house and later a hospital, also starred Emma Roberts, Jamie Lee Curtis and Lea Michele.

Lourd made her feature film debut in J.J. Abrams' *Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens* (2015) and reprised her role as Lieutenant Connix in *Star Wars: Episode VIII - The Last Jedi* (2017) and *Star Wars: Episode IX - The Rise of Skywalker* (2019). She also appeared in Olivia Wilde's directorial debut *Booksmart* (2019), alongside Jason Sudeikis, Lisa Kudrow and Will Forte.

Lourd is a graduate of New York University and currently resides in Los Angeles.

XOLO MARIDUEÑA (Brainy Smurf) has, at just 23 years old, established his place as one to watch within the industry. Maridueña stars as the title character in *Blue Beetle*, the first Latino-led superhero feature for DC Comics and the first DC film labeled "Verified Hot" at 91% on the Rotten Tomatoes Popcornmeter. The film made its worldwide theatrical debut on August 18, 2023, which was the same day Maridueña's single "On My Way" dropped. For this role he won a Saturn Award for Best Young Actor in a Film.

In 2024 Maridueña shot a film opposite Al Pacino and Diego Boneta, *Killing Castro*, and this year he finished shooting *Dog Years*, opposite Leah Lewis. Both films will be released late 2025/early 2026.

Currently, you can catch Maridueña as the English-language voice of the character Heisuke Mashimo on Netflix's anime series "Sakamoto Days." He also stars as Miguel Diaz in Netflix's smash hit series "Cobra Kai," an extension of the classic *Karate Kid* film franchise, alongside original cast members Ralph Macchio and William Zabka. The series is currently on its sixth and final season. Having garnered wide critical praise since the show's 2018 debut, Maridueña quickly became a fan favorite and earned both Teen Choice and Young Artists award nominations. The show's fifth season debuted in 2022.

Maridueña's first big break came in 2012 at age 10, when he landed the role of Victor on NBC's hit drama series "Parenthood," alongside an all-star ensemble cast including Dax Shepard, Craig T. Nelson, Lauren Graham and more. Throughout his three seasons on the show, Maridueña's performance impressed critics and fans alike, earning him an Imagen Award nomination and a spot on *Latina* magazine's "50 Brightest Stars Under 25" list. He also shared in a Young Artist Award for Outstanding Youth Ensemble.

Maridueña's work has also landed him on *Forbes'* "30 Under 30" list and *Variety*'s 2021 "Power of Young Hollywood Impact List," which highlights young stars who are trailblazers in the industry. He was also included in *People en Español's* "50 Most Beautiful" list for 2021.

Maridueña released his first EP at the end of 2024 titled *The Scarab Tapes*, inspired by his *Blue Beetle* role. He recently released a music video for one of the singles on the album, "Palmera."

KURT RUSSELL (Ron) is a decorated American actor whose career has spanned nearly six decades. Russell can currently be seen starring in the Apple TV+ series "Monarch: Legacy of Monsters," opposite his son Wyatt Russell. The show was recently picked up for a second season. He also starred opposite Matthew McConaughey in Andrew Patterson's forthcoming feature drama *The Rivals of Amziah King*.

Russell first entered the acting scene at age 12 when he landed a role on the Western series "The Travels of Jamie McPheeters." Following his performance in the series Russell signed a 10-year contract with the Walt Disney Company, for whom he starred in a number of productions including "Elvis," for which he received his first Emmy nomination (Outstanding Lead Actor in a Limited Series). Next, Russell went on to star in Mike Nichols' *Silkwood*, earning a Golden Globe nomination for Best Supporting Actor.

The actor's notable film credits include *Escape From New York*, *The Thing*, *Big Trouble in Little China*, *Tango & Cash*, *Tombstone*, *Overboard*, *Death Proof*, *The Hateful Eight*, *The Christmas Chronicles* franchise and *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*.

JOHN GOODMAN (Papa Smurf) has earned many accolades including a Golden Globe for Best Actor and seven Emmy nominations for his role in ABC's long-running sitcom "Roseanne." He also earned Emmy nominations for his starring role in TNT's "Kingfish: A Story of Huey P. Long," and supporting roles in the CBS production of Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire" and HBO's Jack Kevorkian biopic "You Don't Know Jack," which reunited Goodman with former co-stars Al Pacino (*Sea of Love*) and Susan Sarandon (*Speed Racer*). In 2007 he won an Emmy for his guest spot on "Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip."

Goodman still remembers the day in 1975 when he left his native St. Louis for New York, armed only with a degree from Southwest Missouri State University, $1,000 borrowed from his brother and a dream of becoming a professional actor. He didn't want to look back later and wonder what might have been, so he made the rounds, worked odd jobs and tried to keep busy. Goodman has kept busy ever since. He currently stars in the final seasons of ABC's "The Conners" and HBO's acclaimed "The Righteous Gemstones."

In 2012 Goodman co-starred in Ben Affleck's drama *Argo*, which won the Academy Award for Best Picture. That same year, he received the National Board of Review Spotlight Award for his work in *Argo*, *Flight* and *Trouble With the Curve*. Goodman was also seen in the black-and-white silent feature *The Artist*, which won the 2012 Academy Award for Best Picture.

In 2016 Goodman returned to the stage in the Broadway revival of Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur's "The Front Page," starring alongside Nathan Lane and John Slattery. Additionally, he made his West End debut in David Mamet's "American Buffalo," at the Wyndham's Theatre in London.

Goodman's other TV credits include Amazon's original series "Alpha House," the Starz miniseries "Dancing on the Edge," DirecTV's "Damages" and NBC's "Community."

The actor's additional film credits include *Flight*, *Atomic Blonde*, *Kong: Skull Island*, *Patriots Day*, *10 Cloverfield Lane*, *Trumbo*, *The Gambler*, *The Monuments Men*, *Inside Llewyn Davis*, *Trouble With the Curve*, *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*, *In the Electric Mist*, *Confessions of a Shopaholic*, *Speed Racer*, *Bee Movie*, *Gigantic*, *Beyond the Sea*, *Masked and Anonymous*, *Storytelling*, *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, *Coyote Ugly*, *One Night at McCool's*, *Bringing Out the Dead*, *Fallen*, *The Borrowers*, *Blues Brothers 2000*, *The Runner*, *The Flintstones*, *Mother Night*, *Arachnophobia*, *Always*, *Pie in the Sky*, *Born Yesterday*, *Matinee*, *The Babe*, *King Ralph*, *Punchline*, *Everybody's All-American*, *Sea of Love*, *Stella*, *C.H.U.D.*, *Revenge of the Nerds*, *Maria's Lovers*, *Sweet Dreams*, *True Stories*, *The Big Easy*, *Burglar*, *The Wrong Guys*, *Barton Fink*, *Raising Arizona* and *The Big Lebowski*.

Goodman has lent his voice to many animated films, including *Transformers: The Last Knight*, *Monsters, Inc.* and *Monsters University*, *Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets*, *The Emperor's New Groove*, *Tales of the Rat Fink*, and *The Jungle Book 2*. He also voiced a main character in NBC's animated series "Father of the Pride."

On stage, Goodman starred on Broadway in "Waiting for Godot," earning rave reviews for his portrayal of Pozzo. His other credits include many dinner theater and children's theater productions, as well as several Off Broadway plays. Goodman's regional theater work includes "Henry IV" (Parts I and II), "Antony and Cleopatra," "As You Like It" and "A Christmas Carol." He also performed in a road production of "The Robber Bridegroom" and starred in the Broadway shows "Loose Ends" (1979) and "Big River" (1985).

In 2001 Goodman starred in the New York Shakespeare Festival's Central Park staging of "The Seagull," directed by Mike Nichols. The following year, he appeared Off Broadway in the National Actors Theatre production of "The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui."

MARSHMELLO (**Turtle**)'s star continues to rise as the famously masked, Grammy-nominated artist and producer breaks boundaries across the music industry. With chart-topping singles and collaborations with artists such as Juice WRLD, Halsey, Khalid, Demi Lovato, Bastille, Kane Brown, Selena Gomez, Jonas Brothers, Manuel Turizo, Fuerza Regida, P!NK, Sting, and many more, Marshmello has amassed a staggering 16.8 billion streams on Spotify alone. With over 68 million monthly listeners, he's one of the top 15 most-streamed artists in the world on Spotify and the third-most-subscribed artist on YouTube.

In 2022, Marshmello received a Grammy nomination for Best Dance/Electronic Album, and his hit single "Numb" with Khalid landed in the top 50 on the Billboard Hot 100. The song was also nominated for "Song of the Summer" at the 2022 MTV Video Music Awards. In 2023, hecontinued to push boundaries, collaborating with artists like Brent Faiyaz, Dove Cameron, P!NK and Sting. He also released his first-ever Latin album, *Sugar Papi*, featuring massive hits like "Esta Vida" with Urbano sensation Farruko, "Harley Quinn" with Fuerza Regida, and the chart-topping "El Merengue" with Manuel Turizo.

More recently, Marshmello made history with his second collaboration with Kane Brown, "Miles

On It," which became the first song ever to debut at No. 1 on both the Dance/Electronic and Country charts. He also released his second track with the Jonas Brothers, "Slow Motion." As we get into 2025, Marshmello is focusing on returning to his dance music roots and re-launching his label, Joytime Collective. Through this new chapter, he will continue to release music independently and sign emerging artists he's passionate about.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

CHRIS MILLER (Director) is an Oscar-nominated director, animator and voice actor who hails from Pittsburgh. Miller is a graduate of the prestigious California Institute of the Arts, Walt Disney's legendary training ground for animation talent. He first garnered attention with his 1988 short film *Lea Press On Limbs*, which was showcased at the 1989 Spike and Mike's Festival of Animation and later featured in the pilot episode of MTV's groundbreaking series "Liquid Television" (1991).

Miller's professional journey began as a clean-up animator on Ralph Bakshi's cult classic *Cool World* (1992). He joined DreamWorks Animation during its formative years, contributing as a story artist for the studio's debut CG feature *Antz* (1998), and later story boarding and co-writing additional dialogue for the Oscar-winning hit *Shrek* (2001).

At DreamWorks, Miller began his voice-acting career. Credits in this capacity include *Antz*, *Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas* (2003), *Madagascar* (2005), *Monsters vs. Aliens* (2009), *Turbo* (2013) and *Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie* (2017). He is particularly known for his recurring roles as the Magic Mirror in the *Shrek* franchise and as Kowalski—the brilliant, deadpan penguin scientist—in the *Madagascar* series.

Miller served as head of story on *Shrek 2* (2004), which led to his directorial debut with *Shrek the Third* (2007). He went on to direct *Puss in Boots* (2011), a critical and commercial success that earned an Academy Award nomination for Best Animated Feature Film.

PAM BRADY (Writer) is a prolific comedy writer working both in TV and features. Brady and Ramy Youssef recently co-created "#1 Happy Family USA," an animated show for Amazon Prime. She also wrote *The SpongeBob Movie: Search for Squarepants*, which is currently in production, and 2023's *Ruby Gillman: Teenage Kraken*. She previously was the showrunner for "Lady Dynamite," which she and Mitch Hurwitz created for Netflix. Brady worked on "South Park" for many years and wrote the feature *South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut* as well as *Team America: World Police* and *Hot Rod*. On the small-screen side Brady created "Neighbors From Hell" for TBS and "The Loop" for Fox.

JAY BROWN (Producer) is a seasoned executive and entrepreneur with over 30 years of experience in the entertainment industry. In 2019 Brown, alongside Tyran "Ty Ty" Smith, co-founded Ty Ty & Jay Brown Productions, an independent production company focused on developing and producing premium content across television, film and digital platforms with a commitment to storytelling that reflects culture, innovation and inclusivity. The company's credits include the feature hit *Annie* (2014) and a host of television shows including the HBO Max series "The Hype," ABC's "Women of the Movement," the Disney+ series "Drive with Swizz Beatz" and Amazon Prime's "Savage X Fenty Show."

In addition to his work in production, Brown is the co-founder and vice chairman of Roc Nation, a globally recognized music and talent and sports management company. Since its founding in 2008 Brown has overseen Roc Nation's growth from a boutique firm to an international leader in entertainment that supports a diverse roster of talent through artist management, music, sports, publishing, touring and strategic brand development. Roc Nation represents some of the world's most recognizable names, including Alicia Keys, Christina Aguilera, J Balvin, LaMelo Ball, Megan Thee Stallion and Rihanna.

Brown also Executive produced "Let The World See", a three-part documentary chronicling Emmett Till's mother, Mamie Till-Mobley's fierce quest for get justice after her son's death.
"Let The World See" debuted on ABC in January 2022.

TY TY SMITH (Producer, Music Supervisor) has had a career in the entertainment industry spanning more than 20 years. He is responsible for numerous chart-topping hits and the development of international cultural icons and productions. Along with being the recipient of multiple awards, Smith has earned great success and respect throughout the entertainment world.

Co-founder of Roc Nation, Smith's collaborative and innovative spirit helped cultivate many of today's biggest acts as he led projects for artists such as Jay-Z, Rihanna, Mariah Carey, Shakira, J. Cole and Willow Smith. In his latest global music venture, Smith partnered with Syed "Shabz" Naqvi in 2023 to create a groundbreaking new genre called DESI TRILL that celebrates and globalizes South Asian music. His goal is to continue to challenge norms and highlight the uniqueness of cultures worldwide.

In 2009 Smith made his debut as a producer, serving as co-producer for the Tony Award®-nominated Broadway play "Fela!" Transitioning from stage to screen, he co-produced the 2012 Angela Davis documentary *Free Angela and All Political Prisoners*, followed by the 2014 box-office hit *Annie*, starring Quvenzhané Wallis and Jamie Foxx. In 2019 Smith teamed up with colleague Jay Brown to found Ty Ty and Jay Brown Productions. As a producer, Smith is committed to telling stories that need to be told and shedding light on issues that promote a positive impact on society. In 2020 he co-produced the Amazon Prime series "Regular Heroes," which highlighted the contributions and personal sacrifices of people supporting their communities during the COVID-19 crisis. Under Ty Ty and Jay Brown Productions, the duo has gone on to produce ABC's "Women of the Movement" (2020), HBO Max's "The Hype" (2021–2022) and Disney+'s "Drive With Swizz Beatz" (2023).

RYAN HARRIS (Producer) has worked in both creative development and production for over 25 years, spanning both animated and live-action entertainment. After beginning his career working on CBS' daytime TV staple "The Young and the Restless," Harris went on to amass feature producing credits such as *The Book of Life*, *Walter*, *The Lego Batman Movie* and *The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge on the Run.* He has served as production manager on such films as *Rise of the Guardians*, *Shrek the Musical* and *Trolls.*

Harris is currently working on an animated project with Cyndi Lauper and is also developing an untitled project with Skydance Animation.